



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6291.0.55.001 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Mar 2017

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## Summary

### Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

Starting with the August 2016 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) the ABS has published detailed Labour Force data in pivot table format, in addition to the existing suite of SuperTable data cube outputs. SuperTable data cube outputs will be discontinued after the July 2017 issue.

## Labour Force Pivot Tables

### LABOUR FORCE PIVOT TABLES

Commencing with the March 2017 issue of *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), the ABS is now publishing a new detailed data pivot table LM9 - Labour Force Status by Age (detailed), Greater Capital City and Rest of State (ASGS) and Sex, January 1991 onwards. This table enhances the suite of data available in the pivot table format.

This follows the commencement, with the August 2016 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and the November 2016 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), of publishing detailed Labour Force data in pivot table format, in addition to the existing suite of SuperTable data cube outputs.

Pivot tables will increase the accessibility of Labour Force data, as well as provide a long

term replacement for the unsupported Summary Record Database (SRD) format. The pivot table products reflect the design and utility of the existing Summary Record Database (SRD) data cubes as closely as possible. In addition, the inclusion of a comma separated variable (CSV) source worksheet in each pivot table is expected to be of particular interest to people who undertake statistical analysis using a range of software.

The median data that were previously released in SuperTable data cubes have been converted to timeseries spreadsheets 14c, 14d, 14e and 16c, to reduce the complexity of pivot table products.

The ABS will continue to release the SRD data cubes until July 2017 for monthly data and August 2017 for quarterly data, to allow for a transition to pivot tables, after which point the ABS intends to cease publishing Labour Force SRD data cubes.

A similar transition for the GM1 data cube in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) will also commence, most likely in 2017.

## **Insights from the Original Data**

### **INSIGHTS FROM THE ORIGINAL DATA**

#### **SAMPLE COMPOSITION**

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (or rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one rotation group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". This sample rotation is important in ensuring that seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, to ensure that changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than the sample. In addition, the replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

When considering movements in the original estimates, it is possible to decompose the sample into three components:

- the matched common sample (survey respondents who responded in both February and March);
- the unmatched common sample (respondents in March but who did not respond in February, or vice versa); and
- the incoming rotation group (who replaced respondents who rotated out in February).

The detailed decomposition of each of these movements is included in the data cube 'Insights From the Original Data'.

In considering the three components of the sample, it is important to remember that the matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents January and February, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing

and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as a result of the groups representing a sample of different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and seeks to ensure that differences in characteristics of rotation groups do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are always designed to be representative of their respective months, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

## **INCOMING ROTATION GROUP**

In original terms, the incoming rotation group in March 2017 had a lower employment to population ratio than the group it replaced (60.7 per cent in February 2017, down to 60.5 per cent in March 2017), and was lower than the ratio for the entire sample (61.0 per cent). Its full-time employment to population ratio was lower than the group it replaced (42.0 per cent in February 2017, down to 41.8 per cent in March 2017), and higher than the ratio for the entire sample (41.6 per cent).

Its unemployment rate was below the sample as a whole (5.8 per cent, compared to 6.2 per cent), though it replaced a group with a relatively low rate (5.1 per cent in February). Its participation rate was also below that for the sample as a whole (64.2 per cent, compared to 65.1 per cent), but also up slightly from the group it replaced (64.0 in February).

## **OUTGOING ROTATION GROUP**

In looking ahead to the April 2017 estimates, the outgoing rotation group in March 2017, which will be replaced by a new incoming rotation group in April 2017, had a slightly higher employment to population ratio (61.1 per cent in March 2017) compared to the sample as a whole (61.0 per cent in March 2017). The full-time employment to population ratio (40.6 per cent) was lower than the ratio for the entire sample (41.6 per cent).

In original terms, the unemployment rate for the outgoing rotation group in March 2017 was 5.8 per cent, which was lower than the 6.2 per cent for the whole sample. The participation rate for the outgoing rotation group in March 2017 was 64.8 per cent, slightly lower than the rate for the whole sample (65.1 per cent).

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TREND DATA**

As the gross flows and rotation group data are presented in original terms they are not directly comparable to the seasonally adjusted and trend data discussed elsewhere in the commentary, and are included to provide additional information for the original data. Since the original data are unadjusted, they have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the trend series. The trend data provide the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market and are the focus of the commentary in this publication.

# **Annual Seasonal Re-analysis**

## **ANNUAL SEASONAL RE-ANALYSIS**

## INTRODUCTION

The annual seasonal re-analysis of the Labour Force series was conducted on estimates up to February 2017. The seasonally adjusted and trend estimates in this issue reflect adjustments made as a result of this re-analysis.

While combined seasonal factors for the complete time series are estimated each month, the parameters and prior corrections are reviewed annually at a more detailed level than is possible in the monthly processing cycle. The annual seasonal re-analysis takes into account each additional year's original data and assesses the appropriateness of seasonal adjustment parameters and prior corrections.

Also implemented as part of this year's annual seasonal re-analysis are minor changes to the filter lengths used in Labour Force series, which the ABS summarised in a short article in the February 2017 issue of *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001).

## WHAT IS SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT?

Labour Force data are collected monthly (or quarterly for some topics) using the same methods, which results in original (that is, unadjusted) monthly or quarterly time series. Seasonal adjustment is applied to some of the original series to remove influences that are:

- systematic and calendar related, for example school leavers joining the labour force every February; and/or
- systematic and related to holidays which move around between months but which still occur every year, for example Easter.

Systematic and calendar related influences which have the same timing, same direction and similar magnitude every year, are removed to create the seasonally adjusted series. The presence and size of influences due to moving holidays, the variable timing of the commencement of interviews in January and the timing of supplementary surveys are estimated using a regression-ARIMA framework and also removed. The regression-ARIMA framework enables these influences to be accurately estimated. Without accurate estimation of these effects, the seasonal pattern may be obscured, and the seasonal factors may be less accurate.

The seasonally adjusted series irregular component is removed to create the trend series. Seasonally adjusted and trend series are revised each month to take account of the latest original estimates.

The ABS aims to produce high quality seasonally adjusted estimates that are without systematic related variation.

Seasonally adjusted aggregate hours worked estimates include more extensive corrections for the influence of public holiday and school holiday effects. Each moving holiday is estimated and removed in the aggregate state/territory estimates. State/territory level influences are used to estimate the school and public holiday effects in the Australia and full-time/part-time by sex estimates.

During each annual seasonal re-analysis, the framework for estimating moving holidays and variable timing of the commencement of interviews in January is assessed for

appropriateness. This ensures that the impact of these influences are being appropriately estimated from year to year, that assumptions used in the regression-ARIMA framework continue to be valid, and to implement improvements in estimation methodology.

## CHANGES TO THE SEASONAL FILTER LENGTHS

As part of ongoing continuous improvement, the ABS has completed a review of the length of seasonal filters used in the Labour Force series. This review determined that changes to the lengths of seasonal filters for specific seasonally adjusted series would provide more stable seasonal factors and reduce the average size of revisions through the concurrent seasonal adjustment and trend estimation process.

The ABS has changed the filter lengths for the series listed below, which has resulted in minor one-off revisions to the time series in the March 2017 estimates, beyond that usually observed through the annual seasonal re-analysis process.

It is important to note that Labour Force series follow an 'aggregation structure', which means that improvements in component series will flow through to the higher level series. For example, an improved filter length for the 'Employed, Australia, Males, Part-time' series will lead to minor improvements to its higher level aggregate series - 'Employed, Australia, Males'.

### Series published in 6202.0 with changed filter lengths:

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#### Employed Persons

- Employed, Full-Time, Males
- Employed, Part-Time, Males
- Employed, Full-Time, Females
- Employed - Ages 15-24
- Employed, Part-Time, Males - Ages 15-24
- Employed, Part-Time, Males - Ages 15-64
- Employed, Full-Time, Females - Ages 15-24
- Employed, Part-Time, Females - Ages 15-24
- Employed, New South Wales, Males
- Employed, New South Wales, Females
- Employed, Full-Time, New South Wales, Males
- Employed, Full-Time, Northern Territory, Females
- Employed, Victoria, Males
- Employed, Victoria, Females
- Employed, Full-Time, Victoria, Males
- Employed, Queensland, Males
- Employed, Full-Time, Queensland, Males
- Employed, Full-Time, Queensland, Females
- Employed, South Australia, Males
- Employed, South Australia, Females
- Employed, Full-Time, South Australia, Males
- Employed, Full-Time, South Australia, Females
- Employed, Western Australia, Females
- Employed, Full-Time, Western Australia, Females
- Employed, Tasmania, Males
- Employed, Tasmania, Females
- Employed, Full-Time, Tasmania, Males
- Employed, Full-Time, Tasmania, Females
- Employed, Northern Territory, Females
- Employed, Full-Time, Northern Territory, Males
- Employed, Australian Capital Territory, Females
- Employed, Full-Time, Australian Capital Territory, Females

#### Unemployed Persons

- Unemployed, Males

Unemployed, Females  
Unemployed, Full-Time, Males  
Unemployed, Full-Time, Females  
Unemployed, Part-Time, Females  
Unemployed - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 25-34  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 35-44  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 55-99  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 25-34  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 35-44  
Unemployed, Males - Ages 55-99  
Unemployed, Females - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Females - Ages 45-54  
Unemployed, Females - Ages 55-99  
Unemployed, Full-Time, Males - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Part-Time, Males - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Full-Time, Females - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Part-Time, Females - Ages 15-24  
Unemployed, Part-Time, Males - Ages 15-64  
Unemployed, Full-Time, Females - Ages 15-64  
Unemployed, Part-Time, Females - Ages 15-64  
Unemployed, New South Wales, Males  
Unemployed, New South Wales, Females  
Unemployed, Victoria, Males  
Unemployed, Victoria, Females  
Unemployed, Queensland, Males  
Unemployed, Queensland, Females  
Unemployed, South Australia, Males  
Unemployed, South Australia, Females  
Unemployed, Western Australia, Males  
Unemployed, Western Australia, Females  
Unemployed, Tasmania, Males  
Unemployed, Tasmania, Females  
Unemployed, Northern Territory, Males  
Unemployed, Northern Territory, Females  
Unemployed, Australian Capital Territory, Males  
Unemployed, Australian Capital Territory, Females

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**Series published in 6291.0.55.001 with changed filter lengths:**

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Unemployed Persons

Unemployed, Long-term, Males  
Unemployed, Long-Term, Females  
Unemployed, Short-Term, Females

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**Series published in 6291.0.55.003 with changed filter lengths:**

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Employed Persons

Employed, Arts and Recreation Services  
Employed, Other Services

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To account for the changes made to the supplementary survey program from 2014, the seasonal adjustment parameters and prior corrections have been monitored and revised regularly on an ongoing basis. As a result, revisions to seasonally adjusted and trend estimates arising from the 2017 annual seasonal re-analysis have been minimal.

## **ONGOING REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY**

As part of a process of continuous improvement, the ABS will continue to explore options for further improving the quality of Labour Force time series. Such investigations may identify further optimisations.

The ABS will continue to provide updates on any developments in this space within *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), ahead of any changes being implemented as part of the 2018 annual seasonal re-analysis.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For any queries regarding the implementation of these changes contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070, or via e-mail at [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au).

## **Article Archive**

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication date.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

## **LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ARCHIVE**

### **2017**

Changes to Filter Lengths used in Labour Statistics (*February*)

### **2016**

Spotlight on Underemployment (*November*)

Labour Force Pivot Tables (*September*)

What's New In The Labour Force (*August*)

Advice on Reporting Regional Labour Force Data (*July*)

What's New in the Labour Force (*July*)

Revisions to Monthly hours worked in all jobs (*July*)

Annual Seasonal Re-analysis (*March*)

Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (*February*)

What's New in the Labour Force (*February*)

What's New in the Labour Force (*January*)

## **2015**

What's New in the Labour Force (*December*)  
Measures of Underemployment and Underutilisation (*November*)  
Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review (*November*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*November*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*October*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*September*)  
Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (*August*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*July*)  
Progress with recommendations from the Independent Technical Review (*July*)  
Assessing Volatility in the Labour Force Series (*June*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*June*)  
Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Independent Technical Review (*June*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*May*)  
Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review (*May*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*April*)  
What's New in the Labour Force (*March*)  
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (*March*)  
Update on Recommendations from the Independent Technical Review (*March*)  
What's new in the Labour Force (*February*)  
Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (*February*)  
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates (*February*)  
What's new in the Labour force (*January*)

## **2014**

What's new in the Labour force (*December*)  
Independent Technical Review into the Labour Force Survey and ABS Response (*November*)  
What's new in the Labour force (*November*)  
Removing the effect of Supplementary Surveys from seasonally adjusted estimates (*October*)  
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues (*September*)  
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues (*August*)  
What's new in the Labour force (*July*)  
What's new in the Labour force (*June*)  
What's new in the Labour force (*May*)  
What's new in the Labour force (*February*)  
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (*January*)

## **2013**

What's new in the Labour force (*December*)  
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics (*December*)  
What's new in the Labour Force (*November*)  
Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey (*September*)  
What's new in the Labour Force (*September*)  
Fact sheet did you know - Underemployment (*June*)  
What's new in the Labour Force (*June*)  
New Labour Force Sample Design (*May*)  
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (*May*)  
What's new in Labour Force (*May*)  
Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey (*April*)  
What's new in Labour Force (*April*)  
Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market (*February*)  
Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary



Surveys (*January*)

What's new in Labour Force (*January*)

Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics (*January*)

## **2012**

Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series (*November*)

Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey (*July*)

Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey (*June*)

Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia (*May*)

ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates (*April*)

Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey (*April*)

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (*March*)

Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness (*February*)

Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained (*January*)

## **2011**

Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics (*November*)

Historical Revisions (*February*)

Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey (*January*)

## **About this Release**

A range of Excel spreadsheets, pivot tables, and SuperTABLE datacubes. SuperTABLE data cubes will be discontinued after the July 2017 release. The monthly spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The monthly datacubes and pivot tables contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

## **Explanatory Notes**

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## **Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet**

The median data that were previously released in SuperTable data cubes have been converted to timeseries spreadsheets 14c, 14d, 14e and 16c, to reduce the complexity of pivot table products.

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For advice on reporting data from this product, please refer to: Advice on reporting regional labour force data.

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10% higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

## **Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet**

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more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

## **Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes**

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## **Standard Errors**

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the standard error (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January 2011 will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

The RSEs for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
<b>Employed</b>									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.9	3.1	3.7	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.5
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.3	3.0	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	6.6
Nov-07	6.2	3.2	4.3	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	6.4
Dec-07	6.1	3.4	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.2
Jan-08	6.0	3.6	4.2	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	6.0
Feb-08	5.9	3.8	4.2	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	5.9
Mar-08	5.9	4.1	4.2	2.4	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.7
Apr-08	5.8	4.4	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.6
May-08	5.7	4.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.4
Jun-08	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.3
Jul-08 — Aug-09	6.9	6.1	5.3	3.1	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.6	7.4
Sep-09	6.5	5.8	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	7.0
Oct-09	6.1	5.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	6.5
Nov-09	5.8	5.2	4.5	2.6	3.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	6.2
Dec-09 — Jun-13	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.8
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.8

Feb-14 onwards	7.9	3.9	5.6	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.9
<b>Unemployed</b>									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.7	5.7	4.5	2.6	3.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	4.9
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.0	5.4	4.9	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.2
Nov-07	6.1	5.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	5.2
Dec-07	6.2	5.5	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	5.2
Jan-08	6.3	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	5.2
Feb-08	6.4	5.7	5.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	1.7	1.8	5.1
Mar-08	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.1
Apr-08	6.8	5.9	5.5	3.2	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	5.2
May-08	6.9	6.0	5.5	3.3	4.8	1.9	1.4	2.0	5.1
Jun-08	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.1
Jul-08 — Aug-09	9.3	8.0	7.4	4.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	2.8	7.3
Sep-09	8.7	7.5	6.8	4.1	6.1	2.4	1.6	2.5	6.8
Oct-09	8.1	7.0	6.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	6.4
Nov-09	7.5	6.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	6.0
Dec-09 — Jun-13	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.7
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.3	6.6	8.4	3.7	5.8	1.7	1.3	2.2	7.1
Feb-14 onwards	7.4	6.7	8.6	3.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	2.3	7.3
<b>NILF</b>									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	6.4	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	6.0
Mar-03 — Oct-07	7.8	3.7	5.2	3.0	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	7.3
Nov-07	7.6	3.9	5.1	3.0	3.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	7.0
Dec-07	7.4	4.1	5.1	3.0	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	6.8
Jan-08	7.3	4.4	5.0	3.0	3.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	6.6
Feb-08	7.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	6.3
Mar-08	7.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	3.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	6.2
Apr-08	7.0	5.4	5.3	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	6.0
May-08	6.8	5.7	5.2	3.2	4.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun-08	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.6
Jul-08 — Aug-09	8.3	7.6	6.5	4.0	5.2	1.8	1.4	2.0	8.0
Sep-09	7.8	7.2	6.1	3.7	4.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	7.4
Oct-09	7.3	6.7	5.8	3.5	4.6	1.6	1.2	1.8	6.9
Nov-09	6.9	6.4	5.4	3.3	4.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	6.5
Dec-09 — Jun-13	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	6.2
Jul-13 — Jan-14	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0
Feb-14 onwards	8.5	4.5	9.9	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.8	2.5	9.1

<b>Greater Capital City Statistical Areas</b>	<b>Feb-78 — Sep-82</b>	<b>Oct-82 — Aug-87</b>	<b>Sep-87 — Feb-89</b>	<b>Mar-89 — Aug-92</b>	<b>Sep-92 — Aug-97</b>	<b>Sep-97 — Sep-98</b>	<b>Oct-98 — Feb-03</b>
Greater Sydney	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Rest of NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Greater Melbourne	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	3.3
Rest of Victoria	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.2
Greater Brisbane	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.4
Rest of Queensland	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.6
Greater Adelaide	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Rest of South Australia	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5
Greater Perth	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.3
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Greater Hobart	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Rest of Tasmania	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1

	Mar-03 — Feb-08	Mar-08 — Jun-08	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 — Jun-13	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb -14 onwards	
Greater Sydney	6.5	5.7	7.1	5.7	7.6	7.7	
Rest of NSW	6.4	5.6	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.6	
Greater Melbourne	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.0	4.0	
Rest of Victoria	3.1	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9	
Greater Brisbane	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.9	6.0	
Rest of Queensland	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	6.3	6.4	
Greater Adelaide	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	
Rest of South Australia	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	
Greater Perth	2.6	3.5	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0	
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	
Greater Hobart	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	
Rest of Tasmania	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	
<b>Statistical Area Level 4 Regions</b>	<b>Oct-98 — Feb-03</b>	<b>Mar-03 — Feb-08</b>	<b>Mar-08 — Jun-08</b>	<b>Jul-08 — Oct-09</b>	<b>Nov-09 — Jun-13</b>	<b>Jul-13 — Jan-14</b>	<b>Feb-14 onwards</b>
Central Coast	7.4	8.5	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.2	10.4
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	7.2	8.3	7.0	9.2	7.0	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Blacktown	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - City and Inner South	8.5	9.7	8.3	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.9
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	9.6	11.0	9.3	12.2	9.3	13.1	13.4
Sydney - Inner South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Inner West	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	7.6	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Northern Beaches	7.8	8.9	7.6	9.9	7.6	10.7	10.9
Sydney - Outer South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Parramatta	7.8	8.9	7.6	10.0	7.6	10.8	11.0
Sydney - Ryde	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - South West	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Sutherland	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Capital Region	7.2	8.2	7.0	9.2	7.0	9.9	10.1
Central West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Far West and Orana	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	10.0
Illawarra	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Mid North Coast	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.3	10.6
Murray	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
New England and North West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	9.9
Richmond - Tweed	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Riverina	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	9.0	10.3	8.7	11.4	8.7	12.3	12.6
Melbourne - Inner	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
Melbourne - Inner East	3.6	3.4	6.2	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.6
Melbourne - Inner South	3.7	3.5	6.4	8.4	6.4	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - North East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - North West	3.7	3.6	6.5	8.6	6.5	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - Outer East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - South East	3.6	3.4	6.3	8.3	6.3	4.6	4.7
Melbourne - West	3.5	3.4	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.4	4.5
Mornington Peninsula	3.6	3.5	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.6	4.7
Ballarat	4.0	3.8	6.9	9.1	6.9	5.0	5.1
Bendigo	3.8	3.7	6.7	8.8	6.7	4.9	5.0
Geelong	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Hume	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Latrobe - Gippsland	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
North West	3.9	3.7	6.8	8.9	6.8	4.9	5.0
Shepparton	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Warrnambool and South West	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8

Brisbane - East	4.1	5.1	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.2
Brisbane - North	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.3
Brisbane - South	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.8	5.2	8.2	8.4
Brisbane - West	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.2	8.3
Brisbane Inner City	4.2	5.3	5.3	6.9	5.3	8.4	8.6
Ipswich	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.9	8.1
Logan - Beaudesert	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.4	8.6
Moreton Bay - North	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	7.7	7.9
Moreton Bay - South	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.3	4.8	7.7	7.9
Cairns	4.9	6.2	6.1	8.0	6.1	9.7	9.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.1	9.3
Fitzroy	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Gold Coast	4.3	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	8.6	8.7
Mackay	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Queensland - Outback	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Sunshine Coast	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.5	8.7
Toowoomba	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Townsville	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Wide Bay	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Adelaide - Central and Hills	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - North	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - South	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
Adelaide - West	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Barossa - Yorke - Mid North	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.0
South Australia - Outback	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
South Australia - South East	3.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5
Mandurah	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Perth - Inner	3.1	3.5	4.9	6.5	4.9	5.8	5.9
Perth - North East	2.9	3.3	4.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	5.5
Perth - North West	2.8	3.2	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	5.3
Perth - South East	2.9	3.3	4.7	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.6
Perth - South West	2.7	3.1	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.1
Bunbury	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Western Australia - Outback	2.8	3.3	4.6	6.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Greater Hobart	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Launceston and North East	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.8
Tasmania - South East	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Tasmania - West and North	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8
West							
Darwin	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9
Northern Territory - Outback	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9

## Quality Declaration - Summary

### QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

#### INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

#### RELEVANCE



The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

## **TIMELINESS**

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 39 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 46 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

## **ACCURACY**

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 93%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in *Labour Force Survey*

## COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## INTERPRETABILITY

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.